

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

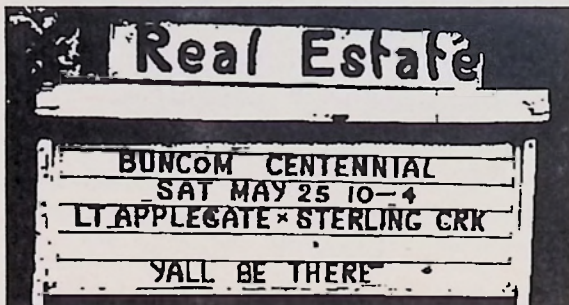
JUNE 1996

BUNCOM CENTENNIAL WAS "A GREAT COUNTRY SOCIAL"

"More, Perhaps, than Ever Before"

Centennial Saturday, May 25, 1996, attracted a huge crowd to our sleepy ghost town. Officials estimate that at least 2,500 people enjoyed the old-fashioned, country day. That's perhaps more people in Buncom on one day than ever before in the Town's history, even in the heyday of gold mining!

Many highlights produced lasting memories for those who joined in the fun of the day, which started at 10 a.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony re-opening the Post Office. Jacksonville Postmaster Nick Moon, his wife, Lorrea, and postal employees Patty, Lisa and Martha, all of whom volunteered their time, worked non-stop all day collecting and stamping the hundreds and hundreds of special cards and letters with the commemorative Buncom cancellation.



Thanks to Ramsay Realty for the invitation!

There was barely room to turn around in the Post Office as the unexpectedly huge crowd also packed in to purchase postcards,

envelopes, posters, T-shirts, mugs and other souvenirs of the Centennial.

THE PRESIDENT SENDS HIS GREETINGS

The Buncom Centennial was honored by recognition from the President of the United States. President Bill Clinton wrote:

"Your efforts to maintain the symbols of Buncom's past will benefit generations to come, and, as you celebrate your region's lasting cultural heritage, I encourage all of you to take advantage of the exciting events highlighting the preservation efforts of the Buncom Historical Society."

Society members who might have thought they were coming just to enjoy the day were pressed into service helping with merchandise and food booths, the silent auction, parking and even with trash!

Country music sounded a soft backdrop and started some toes tapping among both the young and the young-in-heart. The group Good Comp'ny sang most of the day, spelled during breaks by Mark Nelson and members of the Rogue River Roundup, including Ashland Police Chief Gary Brown, who added variety with his Cowboy Poetry.

The arrival of the Valley of the Rogue Bank stagecoach was greeted with applause and a scrambling of children lining up to be among the first riders. For nearly five hours, driver Lorraine Rawls and draft horses Waylon and Willie from the Box R Ranch in the Greensprings travelled up and down Little Applegate Road providing a uniquely Western experience for hundreds of riders.

A Few Words

A bit after noon, Buncom Historical Society President Reeve Hennion took the microphone to welcome the crowd, tell a little about Buncom, and introduce the Grand Marshal, Harley Hall. Harley's few words were just that -- about eight total -- as he told everyone how glad he was to see them honoring Buncom's history.

Jackson County was represented by Commissioners Jack Walker and Sue Kupillas, who read a proclamation declaring May 25, 1996, "Buncom Centennial Day" in the County.

Lyn Hennion, one of the founding directors of the Society, read excerpts from congratulatory letters sent to Buncom by:

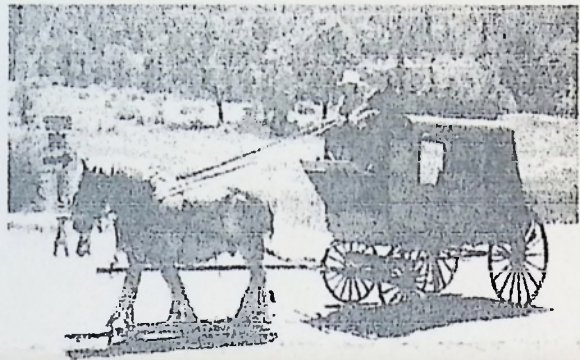
- **Governor John Kitzhaber.** "History is not simply what happened; it is the way what happened is remembered."
- **Senator Mark Hatfield.** "I am hopeful that for generations to come, the Buncom Post Office will continue to exemplify the importance of remembering one's past in order to appreciate the present and future."
- **President Bill Clinton.** (See page one)



Don Todd and Ted Wharton led the Centennial parade.

Parade on "Buncom Time"

The Buncom Centennial Parade, scheduled for 1 p.m., came into view of the Town closer to 1:30 as patient visitors learned the meaning of "Buncom Time." Several tractors, including the ones reported to be the oldest and the newest in the Little Applegate Valley, paraded down Sterling Creek Road along with antique cars, a donkey, children on bicycles, horses with riders and others pulling carts. When the parade reached Little Applegate Road, it turned and marched back up Sterling Creek, giving everyone a double dose of entertainment.



The Valley of the Rogue Bank's Stagecoach was a popular attraction!

Chickens and mushrooms barbecued over red oak coals by the Applegate River Ranch House were "so good, I didn't mind the hour in line," said one of the satisfied diners. The wait in line in the shade of the tall pines also provided an opportunity to make new friends and visit with neighbors.

From "Buncom Blend" to Bake Sale

The "bake sale" table was another popular spot, with new additions this year of lemonade, Mellelo Coffee Roaster's Cafe Buncom Blend ("better than Starbucks") and Rising Sun Farm's Centennial Tortas, delicious combinations of cheeses, spices, sun-dried tomatoes, pesto, and more. Also, a special booth offered Valley View wines, especially labelled for the Centennial, for at-home enjoyment.

Visitors and participants who arrived in costume -- from Postmaster Moon to the

Gold Hill Historical Society and the Applegate Trail Wagon Train -- added considerable color to the day and to the many photographs that were taken throughout the event. An Applegate Trail Wagon, with Linda Beauchamp and Jack Gundlach aboard, made a surprise appearance and offered rides, anticipating this fall's wagon train along the path of the Applegate Trail on its 150th anniversary.

So Much Going On!

As always, the Chicken Splat contest, the door prize drawings, the petting zoo and llamas drew crowds as did the Country Store and plant sales, including a large selection from the horticulture class from McLaughlin Middle School. The booths of artists and craftspeople had a steady stream of browsers and buyers, who found unique treasures to enjoy. Face-painting, gold-panning, and demonstrations of canoe-building, wool spinning and horseshoeing were among the popular activities this year.

In the midst of the afternoon activities, a Western Desperado attempted to rob the Post Office, but fortunately was chased and caught by the "Sheriff." No innocent bystanders were wounded in the shoot-out, staged by the Dalton Gang actors, and it may have been fortunate that Jackson County Sheriff Bob Kennedy, who had been at Buncom earlier in the day, brought with him badges to deputize a posse.

The mood was festive, casual and fun. Even the weather cooperated by producing a perfect sunny-but-not-hot day. Among hundreds of "best parts" of the day, most people there commented that it was just a great "country social" that was wholesome, old-fashioned family fun. As one woman said to her daughter, "I haven't seen your dad smile this much in one day since I can't remember when."

"A Good Tired"

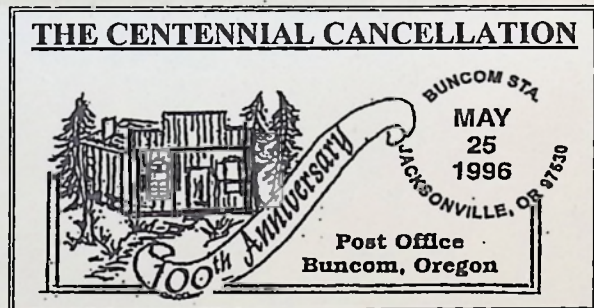
Society member Vernice Hall summed up the feelings of many of the committee members

when she said, "I was as tired as I've ever been at the end of the day, but it was a "good tired."

BUNCOM CENTENNIAL MADE HEADLINES

The news media caught the spirit of the Buncom Centennial! Notices of the event in the AAA Motorist and Out West magazines led to so many calls to society president Reeve Hennion that he turned his home answering machine into the "Buncom Centennial Hotline" and recorded details of the event and directions to Buncom.

Closer to home, we owe tremendous thanks to Paul Fattig, Cleve Twitchell, Kathy Hill and Robert Sterling of the Medford Mail-Tribune, Woody Hunter of the Jacksonville Review, talk-radio station KCMX, and television stations KTVL, KOB, and KDRV, all of whom gave significant space and time to the Buncom Historical Society.



PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED!

When compiling a scrapbook of pictures and memorabilia from the Centennial, we found that we have few photographs. It seems the committee members were too busy to get behind their cameras!

We would welcome copies of your photos, videos, tapes of the local TV news about Buncom, as well as any comments you have about the day or suggestions for next year. Send them to: Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

CHICKEN-SPLAT, USA

Prior to the Centennial, we received many requests for cancellations on the commemorative cards and envelopes. One that gave us particular pleasure came from Fred L. Johnson in Novato, California. His note was addressed to "Chicken Splat Station Postmaster, Buncom, Oregon 97530." We're delighted it found its way to Nick Moon in Jacksonville!

THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!

It took dozens of volunteers to make the Centennial such a rousing success. Co-chairs Carolyn Roberts and Connie Fowler send each one a huge "thank you!" All of us in the Buncom Historical Society add our thanks to each as well and hearty congratulations to Carolyn and Connie!

Special thanks go to our unsung heroes -- those who spent their entire day in the pasture-turned-parking-lot, those who spent May 18th behind weed eaters and brooms getting everything ready, those who donated cookies and treats, those who made signs and posters, those who willingly pitched in when they saw something that needed doing, those who asked for donations -- and those who gave them!

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT BUNCOM

Donations provided by many area merchants contributed mightily to the success of the Centennial. Be sure to review the list enclosed, do business with those who support Buncom, and let them know how much you appreciate their help.

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!

Missed the Centennial or missed getting the T-shirt or poster you wanted? It's not too late. There's an order form attached.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President	899-7656
Lyn Hennion	
J.B. Roberts, Secretary	899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer	
Ron Marchetti	899-1263
Donna Marchetti	
Ben Fowler	899-7805
Connie Fowler	

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon.

Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet: <http://www.mind.net/buncom/>

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT BUNCOM

DOOR PRIZE DONORS

McCully House,
Grand Prize Donor
Country Farm Center
Don Flower
Grange Co-op
Julia Krystal Glassblower
Mellelo's Coffee Roaster
Naumes Equipment Co.
Scheffel's Toys
Siskiyou Buckle Company
Terra Firma
Valley View Winery

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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Country Farm Center
Franklin/Templeton Funds
Jacksonville Shoe Co.
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Liberty Bakery
Mama Georgie's Sweets &
Treats
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History
Sherm's Thunderbird /
Food 4 Less
Siskiyou Buckle Company
Southern Oregon Historical
Society
Southwest Traders
Strand Atkinson Williams
& York
The Spicery
Tobiano's Fine Apparel
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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Applegate River Ranch
House
Applegate Fire Dist. #9
Good Comp'ny
Jackson County
Commissioners
Jackson County Roads &
Parks
Jacksonville Post Office
Jacksonville Review
KCMX Radio
KDRV Channel 12
KOBI Channel 5
KTVL Channel 10
Keypoint Services
International, Inc.
Llamas of SW Oregon
Medford Mail Tribune
Morton Milling Company
Mustard Press
Mark Nelson

Ramsay Realty
Lorraine Rawls
Rogue River Roundup
Signs by Connie
Southern Oregon Philatelic
Society
Sterling Gate Design
Valley of the Rogue Bank
Willie & Waylon, Box R
Ranch

BUNCOM CENTENNIAL PRODUCTS

Mellelo's Coffee Roaster
Off the Wall Screenprinting
Rising sun Farms
U.S. Postal Service
Valley View Winery

GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS. (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY, AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS. CONTAINS SULFITES.



BUNCOM CENTENNIAL

OREGON CHARDONNAY

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY VALLEY VIEW WINERY
JACKSONVILLE, OREGON * ALCOHOL 12% BY VOLUME

The Post Office at Buncum, Southern Oregon's last standing ghost town, was established in 1896 and served the Little Applegate Valley until 1917. Buncum is located 20 miles southwest of Medford, Oregon, near the confluence of Sterling Creek and the Little Applegate River, 5 miles from the Valley View Winery. The Buncum Historical Society (3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530) was organized to preserve Buncum's buildings and the history of the area.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1996

Warm greetings to everyone gathered for the centennial celebration of the Buncom Post Office, sponsored by the Buncom Historical Society.

As southern Oregon's last standing ghost town, Buncom has a rich history preserved in its remaining original structures and in the hearts and minds of its neighbors. Your efforts to maintain the symbols of Buncom's past will benefit generations to come, and, as you celebrate your region's lasting cultural heritage, I encourage all of you to take advantage of the exciting events highlighting the preservation efforts of the Buncom Historical Society.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful Buncom Day celebration and for every future success.

Bill Clinton

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORDER FORM

If you missed the Centennial or just didn't have time to make your purchases that day, here's your chance to order collectible T-shirts, mugs, posters and postcards. A few copies of "Buncom: Crossroads Station," the history of the area, are also available.

T-Shirts, featuring a sketch by Donna Marchetti of a stagecoach in front of the Post Office are available in **children's sizes** small (6-8) and medium (10-12) in **grey or red** and in **adult sizes** small, medium, large and extra-large in **green, grey, natural, paprika, stonewashed blue, and dusty rose**. We can special order XXL. The shirts are 100% preshrunk cotton.

Mugs with the same design or a circular Centennial "medallion" are light tan with brown lettering. Limited edition **posters** feature an 11"x17" full-color picture of Buncom, individually numbered and signed by Buncom's Mayor. Standard 4"x6" **postcards** also show a full-color photograph of Buncom. A few collectible postcards are stamped and bear the Centennial Cancellation.

How many?	Item	Color/Size/Design	Price each	Total
_____	T-Shirts	_____	\$14.50 (Child: \$12)	_____
_____	Mugs	_____	\$10.00	_____
_____	Posters	<u>Rolled</u>	\$ 8.00	_____
_____	Posters	<u>Mounted</u>	\$12.00	_____
_____	Postcards	<u>Unmarked</u>	4 for \$1; 25 for \$5	_____
_____	Postcards	<u>Stamped & Cancelled</u>	\$ 1.00 each	_____
_____	"Buncom: Crossroad Station"		\$14.95	_____

Total Enclosed: _____

Make check payable and send to: Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Prices include shipping and handling. Questions? Call 541/899-7656.

For special shipping instructions, please check here ☐ and note on reverse.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

Buncom Centennial Chardonnay and Merlot are available at \$8.00/bottle through Valley View Winery, 1000 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Call 541/899-8468.

Cafe Buncom Blend is available at \$10.50/pound from Mellelo's Coffee Roasters, 100 E. 6th Street or 229 W. Main Street, Downtown Medford, OR 97501. Call 541/779-9884.

Buncom Historical Society
3232 Little Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 33
Jacksonville, OR 97530
BULK MAIL

Eagle Point Hist. Society
P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524
J.F.